

Confrontation: Which God Do You Serve?

*"Elijah: Taking A Stand", Part 2 of 4
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"After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 'Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.' So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria, and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of his palace. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the Lord...)"
(1 Kings 18:1-3, NIV)

"'Haven't you heard, my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord? I hid a hundred of the Lord's prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water. And now you tell me to go to my master and say, 'Elijah is here.' He will kill me!' Elijah said, 'As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab today.'"
(1 Kings 18:13-15, NIV)

Confronting Three Big Cultural Challenges

I) Culture is morally CONFUSED ON RIGHT AND WRONG.

"So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When He saw Elijah, he said to him, 'Is that you, you troubler of Israel?' 'I have not made trouble for Israel,' Elijah replied, 'But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals.'"
(1 Kings 18:16-18, NIV)

***Our response: Provide a MORAL COMPASS for people.**

II) Culture usually portrays ALL FAITHS AS EQUALLY VALID.

"Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.' So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.' But the people said nothing."
(1 Kings 18:19-21, NIV)

***Our response: Present the CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY to people.**

III) Culture needs to see the TRUTH OF GOD ON DISPLAY.

"Then Elijah said to them, 'I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire— He is God.' Then all the people said, 'What you say is good.'"
(1 Kings 18:22-24, NIV)

**The prophets of Baal call on him all morning with no response. (v.25-29)*

"Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, which was in ruins... and he dug a trench around it...He arranged the wood, cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood... 'Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood...Do it again...a thirddtime...' The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench...Elijah prayed: 'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, 'The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!' Then Elijah commanded them, 'Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let them get away!' They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there."
(1 Kings 18:30-40, NIV)

***Our response: Project CHRIST IN YOUR LIFESTYLE with people.**